



*United States Attorney
Southern District of New York*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JULY 16, 2003

CONTACT: U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
MARVIN SMILON, HERBERT HADAD,
MICHAEL KULSTAD
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE
(212) 637-2600, (914) 993-1900

**U.S. INDICTS TWO BROTHERS IN THE ATTEMPTED
ARMED ROBBERY AND SHOOTING AT A MAHOPAC TAVERN**

JAMES B. COMEY, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, today announced that two brothers, LAWRENCE SAVOCA, 37, of Bronxville, New York, and SALVATORE SAVOCA, 31, of Mahopac, New York, were indicted on conspiracy, attempted robbery and weapons charges stemming from the June 21, 2001, attempted robbery of Michael Geary of the cash proceeds of the Rhino Bar in Mahopac, in the course of which Mr. Geary was shot. LAWRENCE SAVOCA was also charged with being a convicted felon in possession of a firearm.

The defendants were arrested on July 15, 2003. At an arraignment hearing this morning in federal court in White Plains, LAWRENCE SAVOCA was ordered held without bail by United States Magistrate Judge LISA MARGARET SMITH. Judge SMITH ordered that SALVATORE SAVOCA be held without bail pending a hearing at 9:45 A.M. on Monday, July 21, 2003.

If convicted, each of the defendants faces a maximum prison term of 20 years and a fine of up to \$250,000 on the

conspiracy charge, a maximum prison term of 20 years and a fine of up to \$250,000 on the attempted robbery charge, and a prison term of 10 years to life and a fine of up to \$250,000 if convicted on the charge stemming from the discharge of the weapon during the course of the attempted robbery. In addition, LAWRENCE SAVOCA faces a maximum prison term of 10 years and a fine of up to \$250,000 if convicted on the felon in possession of a weapon charge.

The case was set down for a pre-trial conference to be held at 10:45 A.M. on Friday, September 12, in White Plains federal court.

Mr. COMEY praised the Town of Carmel Police Department and the ATF for their efforts during the investigation. Mr. COMEY also highlighted the efforts of the ATF's National Integrated Ballistic Information Network ("NIBIN") program, which were crucial to solving this case. NIBIN is nationwide initiative aimed at helping state and local law enforcement identify bullets and casings by a unique matching technology that enables investigators to link bullets to other crimes.

Assistant United States Attorney ELLIOTT B. JACOBSON is in charge of the prosecution.

The charges contained in the Indictment are merely accusations, and the defendants are innocent unless and until proven guilty.

